

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing system comprising:
(a first information processing apparatus) comprising:
(group information management means) for managing
information related to one or more groups each of which is
formed of a plurality of shops; and
(accounting information storage means) for storing
the accounting information of a service which all shops
included in the one or more groups can offer, and
(a second information processing apparatus) comprising
(accounting information management means) for setting or
changing the accounting information of the service stored in
said accounting information storage means.

2. An information processing system according to Claim
1, wherein said group information management means manages a
combination of shops which can offer a certain service among
the plurality of shops.

3. An information processing system according to Claim
1, wherein said group information management means manages
at least one of (the ID information of each group), (the name
of each group), (the administrator of each group), (the password
of the administrator of each group), (the ID information of

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which one?

all shops included in each group, the names of all the shops included in each group, the administrators of all the shops included in each group, and the password of the administrator of each shop.

4. An information processing system according to Claim 3, wherein said group information management means registers, corrects, and deletes information related to the group.

5. An information processing system according to Claim 4, wherein said group information management means allows only the administrator of the information processing system to manage the information related to the group.

6. An information processing system according to Claim 1, wherein said first information processing apparatus reports the processing performed by the use of said group information management means to the administrators of a group and a shop related to the processing.

7. An information processing system according to Claim 1, wherein said accounting information management means sets or changes the accounting information of a service which each group can offer and the accounting information of one or more products constituting the service.

8. An information processing system according to Claim 1, wherein said accounting information management means can set accounting information unique to a shop for a service which each group can offer.

9. An information processing system according to Claim 8, wherein said accounting information management means gives priority to the accounting information of a service uniquely specified for a certain shop over the accounting information of a service which a group including the shop can offer.

10. An information processing system according to Claim 1, wherein said accounting information management means corrects and deletes the accounting information of the service and registers the accounting information of a service which the group newly offers.

11. An information processing system according to Claim 1, wherein said accounting information management means allows the administrator of a certain group who manages the accounting information of a service which the group can offer or the administrator of a certain shop included in the group who manages the accounting information

of a service which the shop can offer to set or change the accounting information of the service.

12. An information processing system according to Claim 11, wherein the shop administrator can set accounting information unique to the shop for a service which a certain group can offer, within a range allowed by the group administrator.

13. An information processing system according to Claim 1, wherein said second information processing apparatus reports the setting and change made by the group administrator to the administrator of a shop included in the group which the group administrator manages.

14. An information processing system according to Claim 12, wherein said second information processing apparatus reports the setting and change made by the shop administrator to the administrator of a group to which the shop which the shop administrator manages belongs.

15. An information processing system according to Claim 1, wherein the accounting information of the service is formed of a basic charge and an amount charge.

16. An information processing system according to Claim 1, wherein the accounting information of the service varies according to a period or an amount to be processed.

17. An information processing system according to Claim 1, wherein a shop included in the group can offer a service other than the service which all shops included in the group can offer.

18. An information processing system according to Claim 1, wherein the service is formed of one or more products.

19. An information processing system according to Claim 1, wherein the service makes one or more prints of a certain image.

20. An information processing system according to Claim 1, wherein said information processing system includes a local area network or the Internet.

21. An information processing system according to Claim 1, wherein said first information processing apparatus further comprises service processing means for receiving an order of the service and processing the service.

22. An information processing apparatus comprising:
group information management means) for managing
information related to one or more groups each of which is
formed of a plurality of shops; and
(accounting information storage means) for storing the
accounting information of a service which all shops included
in the one or more groups can offer.

23. An information processing apparatus comprising:
(accounting information management means) for setting or
changing the accounting information of a service which all
shops included in a certain group can offer; and
(control means) for controlling such that the accounting
information of the service, set or changed by the use of
said accounting information management means is stored in an
external unit.

24. An information processing method comprising the
steps of:
managing information related to one or more groups each
of which is formed of a plurality of shops;
storing the accounting information of a service which
all shops included in the one or more groups can offer; and
setting or changing the accounting information of the

service which all the shops included in the one or more groups can offer.

25. A computer readable memory storing a program, the program comprising the steps of:

managing information related to one or more groups each of which is formed of a plurality of shops;

storing the accounting information of a service which all shops included in the one or more groups can offer; and

setting or changing the accounting information of the service which all the shops included in the one or more groups can offer.

26. An information processing system comprising:

a first information processing apparatus comprising an order-issue means for ordering a certain service; and

a second information processing apparatus comprising:
accounting information storage means for storing the accounting information of a service which all shops included in one or more groups each of which is formed of a plurality of shops can offer; and

charge calculation means for calculating the charge for a certain service ordered by said order-issue means, according to the accounting information stored in said accounting information storage means.

27. An information processing system according to Claim 26, wherein said order-issue means orders the certain service from a certain shop included in the one or more groups.

28. An information processing system according to Claim 26, wherein said second information processing apparatus reports the calculation result of said charge calculation means to said first information processing apparatus or a shop specified by said order-issue means.

29. An information processing system according to Claim 26, wherein the certain service is formed of one or more products.

30. An information processing system according to Claim 26, wherein said charge calculation means calculates the charge for the certain service according to the accounting information of one or more products constituting the certain service.

31. An information processing system according to Claim 26, wherein the accounting information of the certain service is formed of a basic charge and an amount charge.

32. An information processing system according to Claim 26, wherein the accounting information of the certain service varies according to a period or an amount to be processed.

33. An information processing system according to Claim 26, wherein the certain service makes at least one or more prints of a certain image.

34. An information processing system according to Claim 26, wherein said first information processing apparatus is connected to said second information processing apparatus via a local area network or the Internet.

35. An information processing apparatus comprising:
accounting information storage means for storing the accounting information of a service which a shop included in one or more groups each of which is formed of a plurality of shops can offer; and

charge calculation means for calculating the charge for a certain service according to the accounting information stored in said accounting information storage means.

36. An information processing method comprising the

steps of:

storing the accounting information of a service which all shops included in one or more groups each of which is formed of a plurality of shops can offer; and

calculating the charge for a certain service according to the stored accounting information.

37. A computer readable memory storing a program, the program comprising the steps of:

storing the accounting information of a service which all shops included in one or more groups each of which is formed of a plurality of shops can offer; and

calculating the charge for a certain service according to the stored accounting information.

38. An information processing system comprising:

a first information processing apparatus comprising:

accounting information storage means for storing the accounting information of a service which a shop included in one or more groups each of which is formed of a plurality of shops can offer; and

authentication means for authenticating the operations of a certain administrator, and

a second information processing apparatus comprising accounting information management means for managing the

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accounting information of a service which each group can offer, stored in said accounting information storage means, according to the authentication result of said authentication means.

39. An information processing system according to Claim 38, wherein said accounting information storage means stores the accounting information of a service which a shop included in the one or more groups can offer, and the accounting information of one or more products constituting the service.

40. An information processing system according to Claim 38, wherein said accounting information storage means stores the accounting information of a service which a shop included in the one or more groups can offer, and the accounting information unique to each shop of the service.

41. An information processing system according to Claim 38, wherein said accounting information management means manages the accounting information of a service which all shops included in each group can offer, and the accounting information of one or more products constituting the service.

42. An information processing system according to Claim 38, wherein said accounting information management means corrects and deletes a service which each group can offer, and registers the accounting information of a service newly offered by the group.

43. An information processing system according to Claim 38, wherein said authentication means authenticates the operations of the certain administrator and allows only the certain administrator to manage the accounting information of the service.

44. An information processing system according to Claim 38, wherein said authentication means allows a group administrator who manages the accounting information of a service which a certain group can offer, or the administrator of a certain shop included in each group who manages the accounting information of a service which the shop can offer to manage the accounting information of the service.

45. An information processing system according to Claim 44, wherein the administrator of the shop can set the accounting information unique to the shop of a service which a certain group can offer, within a range allowed by the

group administrator.

46. An information processing system according to Claim 45, wherein said second information processing apparatus reports the management performed by the group administrator to the administrator of a shop included in the group which the group administrator manages.

47. An information processing system according to Claim 45, wherein said second information processing apparatus reports the management performed by the shop administrator to the administrator of the group to which the shop which the shop administrator manages belongs.

48. An information processing system according to Claim 38, wherein the accounting information of the service is formed of a basic charge and an amount charge.

49. An information processing system according to Claim 38, wherein the accounting information of the service varies according to a period or an amount to be processed.

50. An information processing system according to Claim 38, wherein a shop included in the group can offer a service other than a service which all shops included in the

group can offer.

51. An information processing system according to Claim 38, wherein the service makes one or more prints of a certain image.

52. An information processing system according to Claim 38, wherein said information processing system includes a local area network or the Internet.

53. An information processing system according to Claim 38, wherein said first information processing apparatus further comprises charge calculation means for calculating the charge of a certain service according to the service accounting information stored in said accounting information storage means.

54. An information processing system according to Claim 38, wherein, when the accounting information unique to a shop included in the group is set, said charge calculation means gives priority to the accounting information unique to the shop over the accounting information of a service which the group can offer.

55. An information processing apparatus comprising:

accounting information storage means for storing the accounting information of a service which all shops included in one or more groups each of which is formed of a plurality of shops can offer; and

authentication means for authenticating the user who operates the accounting information of a service which each group can offer, stored in said accounting information storage means.

56. An information processing apparatus comprising:
accounting information management means for managing the accounting information of a service which a certain group can offer; and

control means for controlling such that the accounting information of the service, updated by the use of said accounting information management means is stored in an external unit according to the authentication result of the user who operates said accounting information management means.

57. An information processing method comprising the steps of:

storing the accounting information of a service which all shops included in one or more groups each of which is formed of a plurality of shops can offer;

authenticating the operations of a certain administrator; and

managing the accounting information of a service which each group can offer, according to the authentication result.

58. A computer readable memory storing a program, the program comprising the steps of:

storing the accounting information of a service which all shops included in one or more groups each of which is formed of a plurality of shops can offer;

authenticating the operations of a certain administrator; and

managing the accounting information of a service which each group can offer, according to the authentication result.

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58. A computer readable memory storing a program, the program comprising the steps of: